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# Pelham NEWS

Published by Postmedia

## Cyclone celebrate



BRANDI FRANKE /  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
E.L. Crossley Secondary  
School athletic award  
winners for 2015-16  
include, front row, from  
left, Jared Naar, Athletic  
Accomplishment Award;  
Hailey Pories, senior  
female; Brynn Rush,  
senior male, Athletic  
Accomplishment  
Award; Dylan Bigger,  
junior male; back row,  
Tyler Dobbie, first  
year, male; Mackenzie  
Glennney, outstanding  
contribution to  
athletics; Brock  
Glennney, outstanding  
contribution to sports;  
Ben Kalchman, Cyclone  
Athletics Award; Liam  
Sotka, Community  
Athletics Award, on behalf  
of Pelham Panthers  
bantam hockey team;  
Kate Kufelic, first  
year, female; Neenah  
Williams, Cyclone  
Athletics Award; and  
Jessie Fennell, junior  
female. See story on  
page 6



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# UPFRONT

# Teeing off for juvenile diabetes

**LAURA BARTON**  
Postmedia Network

It's just about time to get the clubs out for the 7th annual Blake Turner Open.

The local golf tournament held each year to raise awareness and funds for juvenile diabetes something that nine-year-old Blake Turner has faced since he was 15 months old.

The goal is to help find a cure for the illness and to have some fun while they're at it.

"If you can raise some money and have some fun, you know, it's a good day," said Mark Turner, Blake's father.

He said their awareness efforts started with a walk in Welland for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which was also successful. Blake was even an ambassador at just over two years old.

Turner said the walk is still something they do every year.

The golf tournament was born out of the need to keep people engaged in the conservation of and fundraising efforts for juvenile diabetes.

"As time goes by, you kind of have to keep working at it to continue," he said. "So that was the good thing about the golf tournament. We raise money through the golf tournament and then we raise a little bit of money at the walk, too."

Turner described the golf tournament as spearheading the fundraising for the walk, which is later in the year.

He said they picked golf because friends and family members love the sport.

The tournament is a "shotgun" style game, which means everyone starts and finishes at roughly the same time. The groups each start at a different hole and everyone plays at the same time.

In the past, 80 to 90 have golfered and enjoyed lunch, a steak dinner, a silent auction and of course prizes. All of these features are back for this year.

Turner said the tournament raises about \$3,000 each year.

"We welcome golfers, we welcome prizes and/or silent auction items and donations."

Blake comes out to the event, too.

"He doesn't golf yet, but maybe one day, eh bud?" Turner said to his son.

For now, Blake puts a bit and gets to ride in the golf cart. He said he wants to drive the cart in the cart when he's old enough.

The tournament takes place Saturday, June 18 at Riverview Golf and Country Club in Fenwick.

The cost is \$110 per player, which covers the game of golf, a cart, lunch and dinner.

Turner said people should sign up by June 15.

Anyone who would like to contribute or find out more can contact him directly on his cell phone at 905-714-5980 or by email at [bragg67@yahoo.com](mailto:bragg67@yahoo.com).

[barton@postmedia.com](mailto:barton@postmedia.com)



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Mark Turner and son Blake stand in their front yard showing their readiness for the 7th annual Blake Turner Open to be held June 18 to raise awareness and funds for juvenile diabetes.

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# Name change disappoints

**LAURA BARTON**  
Postmedia Network

E.W. Farr Memorial Public School is set to get a name change — and Fenwick residents aren't happy about it.

Wellington Heights Public School is the name decided upon by District School Board of Niagara trustees as Pelham Central Public School becomes E.W. Farr.

Instead of one school for kindergarten to Grade 3 students and another for Grade 4 to 8 students, there will be just one school for all starting in 2017.

Lynn Shatford, a mom of four whose kids have gone through E.W. Farr and who also co-chairs the school's advisory council, said although community members are sad about the closing of Pelham Centre, they understand the decision.

The name change, however, they don't get.

One of the reasons given for the name change is to create a new school community. Except, said Shatford, it's not really new.

"We already have a shared legacy."

She described E.W. Farr and Pelham Centre as being akin to two separate campuses for the same school. The way she sees it, they're already the same school community.

Another reason many people oppose the new name, she said, is because the original name has historical context.

Edgar Walter Farr was a well-known educator in the Fenwick area until he retired in 1938.

"This is a person. It's a memorial to him," said Carolyn Botari of the Pelham Historical Society. "To me, it's kind of insulting when you take away a memorial from someone."

Lynn Shatford and Botari said local history is really important to the community.

Going through the plethora of comments posted to the online change.org petition to stop the name change demonstrates how passionate people are about the school's heritage.

Several commenters said many genera-

tions of their families have gone through E.W. Farr, others went to Honour the teacher and orthodontist still point to how Wellington Heights has no historical relevance to them.

Wellington Heights was originally a section of land in Pelham named after the Duke of Wellington after the War of 1812. The plan was to build a strengthened there, but it never happened and the land was sold.

While the name might have historical relevance to Pelham as a whole, Shatford said that land isn't a part of the school's property.

The name change wasn't all up to the school board though, said

Kim Yielding, manager of communications and public relations for DSBN.

She said Wellington Heights was actually one of the options submitted by the students when the board asked for suggestions.

"Students wanted for everyone to have a new space and to have a new name to go along with it," she said.

The students, she said, don't have the same worries about preserving the name and instead are excited to choose new colours and a mascot.

Dale Robinson, trustee for Thoroold and Pelham, said sh'd hate for the children to feel badly about what's happening since they are

excited for the new school.

She said the name E.W. Farr won't be absent from the school board's lexicon, but the name is being named after him. The plan is to make it clear who he was and why he is important.

As for the petition, Yielding said it's a great way for residents to express their concern, but the name is already final as of May 25.

The petition has collected nearly 350 supporters since it was started about a week ago. When it hits 500, it will be delivered to members of the DSBN to make the community's voice heard.

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Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

Lynn Shatford, E.W. Farr's SAC chair and mom whose children have attended the school says the community doesn't understand the name change for the school and wants to preserve its history.

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# COMMENT

# Run for the Rosés at mealtime



BOB  
TYMCZYSZYN

I'm going to ask a favour before you read any further. Take a look at the photo of the wines. A long look. Immerse yourself in it.

I know newsprint reproduction won't do it justice, but you may notice the sweat beading on the chilled glass on a sultry evening in cottage country.

You can immediately feel the cooling effect as you would take your first sip of one of these cool-climate Rosés.

And while Rosé has lagged in some circles, never attaining the grand stature of Chardonnays or Rieslings or Pinot Noirs, they have their place in wine culture and perhaps should secure a spot in your wine rack.

As one of the most versatile and food-friendly wines, they have long been a staple on tables in Franco and are gaining popularity elsewhere, fruity and refreshing when made in a dry style.

So I chose this quartet of 2015 vintage to show off the styles in the Beamsville-Vineyard area.

Even though they have the same familial lineage growing up within kilometres of each other, it is amazing how different the wines are, whether because of winemaking, grapes used or even soil.

From the very pale Fielding to the deep-coloured Featherstone, there is a lot to happy with in these wines.

The Fielding Rosé is clearly the lightest in colour, and it follows that it is also the lightest-tasting of the four.

With low sugar content, tastes of cranberry and citrus spring forward from the blend of Gamay and Cabernet Franc.

Acidity is in balance with the sweetness, making it a great choice to start your evening. At \$15.95 it makes an excellent selection of what to bring for a barbecue.

Tawse Sketches of Niagara Rosé 2015 is perhaps the most "European" of the bunch, with similarities to wines from southern France.

Light on the nose, it shows strawberry and sweetened citrus on the palate. Balanced, it will do well on its own but will come to life with a meal.

A bit higher in residual sugar, the wine-maker has done an excellent job of balancing the acidity from the blend Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir and Merlot to keep it lively.

Priced at \$16.95, the Tawse is lowest of the bunch in alcohol at 12 per cent.

Among wines acknowledged for bringing



A quartet of 2015 Rosés from the Beamsville/Vineyard area of the Niagara. Featherstone, Tawse, Fielding and Malivoire.

Niagara Rosés to the forefront, Malivoire's

Lady Bug would have to be on that list.

Made from a blend of mostly Cabernet

Franc, almost equal parts of Gamay and

Pinot Noir and with a touch of Cabernet

Sauvignon thrown in, Lady Bug has pleasant

strawberry notes and an underlying dryness

that makes it a natural choice for sipping by

itself.

Consistently good, it has its own following

and for a mere \$15.95 it's a good value.

Last on the dock is Featherstone's Rosé

2015.

It was made to be more full-bodied by intention, and the colour gives it away.

Deep and rich-looking, watermelon in colour, it leans more toward red than white both in taste and weight.

With a nice mouth feel, raspberry and strawberry greet you as you take your first taste. Of the bunch, the wine is the one you open last.

Mostly Cabernet Franc with Gamay and Merlot, it has a slightly tannic finish that will

pair it with any summer meal.

Again priced at \$15.95, it rounds out the list that one should try at the wineries to see which you like best.

As temperatures keep climbing and we get deeper into summer, there's nothing better than putting your feet on a Muskoka chair breaking the back of a new book and enjoying one of these great Niagara Rosés.

btymczyszyn@postmedia.com  
@btbty

# Mental health workers partner with police

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

Brandy Sand's first night on the street was a tough one.

On July 2, the social worker wrapped herself in a bullet-proof vest and started her initial shift.

She was teamed with a Niagara Regional Police officer as part of what is known as the NRP's mobile crisis rapid response team.

That night ended with two NRP officers suffering gunshot wounds in rural Pelham. One of the officers was shot through the neck and was lucky to survive.

She wasn't part of the call. It wasn't in her coverage zone.

However, the cops were dispatched to assist a man with mental health issues — and that's her specialty.

"The reality hit me that I'm in a cruiser with front-line officers, and there is the potential for danger, but I am here to help," said Sand, the crisis response team leader. "I'm here to help officers identify the signs, symptoms and behaviours of people in mental distress, and to prevent any potential harm."

The response team sends mental health professionals out on 911 with Niagara Regional Police officers. It is a new program in Niagara that is approaching its first anniversary.

"The reality is police officers don't go to the Ontario Police College to become mental health workers," Sand said. "They get very little education in that aspect. They come out and want to hit the road and start fighting crime, but find themselves on calls that have nothing to do with the criminal justice system."

Sand said when she first arrives at a scene, she is often mistaken for a police officer.

## THE NRP'S NEW MOBILE CRISIS RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

**What happens:** One social worker, seven days a week, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., responds in a cruiser to mental-health calls with an NRP officer.

**Team members:** Two full-time social workers and five relief workers.

**Who pays:** The Local Health Integration Network pays the social workers.

**Average response time:** 7 minutes, 38 seconds.

**Connections to mental health services:** 357

**Diversions from hospital:** 379 out of 540 contacts

**Where:** Program only runs in St. Catharines, though there are efforts underway to acquire more funding and expand it across the region.

MCRRIT staff are from July 31

She wears a dark blue uniform and a Kevlar vest with a two-way radio slung across her shoulder. At a quick glance, the only difference is her vest, which says MCRRIT. Her pants are unmarked, decorated with POLICE. Of course, she doesn't carry a clock.

"We see the benefits of the program every day," Sand said. "We've had more successes than challenges, that's for sure."

"We had a call where a gentleman had knives in his car. He was under the influence and suicidal. I was able to negotiate with him to keep him safe until the police were able

to go in and apprehend him."

The officer and I have different strengths. Sometimes the officer's uniform de-escalates things, like you are dealing with a defiant youth.

"Other times — like when you have a situation with a battered woman — I can use my approach."

Police Chief Jeff McGuire gets a duty officer's report twice a day detailing police activity over a 12-hour period. There are mental health calls or suicide attempts on just about every one.

From July to March 31, the program diverted 379 people from the hospital out of a total of 540 contacts in St. Catharines, said Kelly Falconer, of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Niagara branch. Before the program started, they would have ended up in the emergency room.

She oversees the social worker component of the team.

"One of the bigger things that isn't identified in the stats is how we have seen officers change their perspective," she said. "They are starting to identify the person not as a perpetrator of a crime, but as somebody who is in crisis and needs help."

She said the police have become much more open to mental health issues, like services such as Safe Beds and urgent support programs.

"We weren't sure of how front-line officers were going to react," Falconer said. "We thought they might think of us as a pain in the butt. That is not what happened at all. They have been receptive to feedback and welcoming. It is a good partnership."

While there are cities in Canada that have social workers meet police at the scene,

## FIVE OBJECTIVES FOR THE MCRRIT PROGRAM

1. Decrease amount of time individuals in crisis have to wait to be connected to a mental health worker.
2. Divers, where appropriate, from the hospital and criminal justice system.
3. Decrease the number of mental health act apprehensions.
4. Increase community connections for individuals in crisis.
5. Develop police capacity to respond to mental health calls.

Hamilton was the first police service in Canada to allow the workers to ride in the car with officers. Niagara used that program as a template.

"The advantage of this program is that the police can't really put the call on hold and sit around waiting for someone to show up," Falconer said. "The officers have to start dealing with the call the second they get there."

McGuire wants to see the program expand across Niagara. It runs only in St. Catharines, though the specifically trained social workers and officers act as resources for officers in other areas, who can then reach by telephone.

The program doesn't cost the police anything. The Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) picks up the tab for the social workers.

From the police side, unfunded officers aren't mak-



**Carlye Myers**, a Canadian Mental Health Association worker, rides with Niagara Regional Police Const. Dan Dupuis to assist with calls that involve people suffering from mental health issues.

ing as many trips to the St. Catharines hospital, where they must spend time cooling their heels in the emergency room waiting for the hospital to assess and take responsibility for the patients.

By mandate, the officers can't leave until that happens.

"We have drastically reduced the number of people who get stuck in the hospital," McGuire said. "When it is just police officers responding, they don't have a lot of choices. If it gets to the point where they feel the person needs to go somewhere, all they used to have was apprehension."

"When the MCRRIT team gets a call, the mental health worker has full access to the database. It may be someone we have dealt with many times. She can go in there and get the information and assess the situation."

"The person may not have to be apprehended. Often the social worker can guide the person to the right agencies and get the assistance he or she needs. They also arrange

a followup the next day."

McGuire said there have been times when the NRP has had as many as eight officers stuck at the hospital on mental health calls.

"In Niagara, everyone apprehends under the Mental Health Act has to come to St. Catharines," McGuire explained. "Take, for instance, someone from Fort Erie. We have a small detachment there. If the call happens in the middle of the night, the officer has to drive from Fort Erie and stay in St. Catharines."

"If we lose too many officers, we have to bring in more on overtime to fill in.

"The program is good for the police — and it is good for the individuals in the community."

"The people we are dealing with on these calls don't always have a key or a set of a police car in handbags. In some cases, they do need to go to the hospital, but it is better when that is the last resort."

**Continued on Page 16**



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# LOCAL NEWS

# Cyclone celebrate

## Triple crown-winning rowers share E.L. Crossley Athletic Accomplishment Award

**BERND FRANKE**  
Postmedia Network

E.L. Crossley Secondary School didn't hold out hardware for drama at its 2015-16 athletic awards assembly, but it could have. And there wouldn't have

been any need to open an envelope at the podium. With their flair for a dramatic finish to their four years rowing together for the Cyclone, Jared Naar and Braedan Rush would have been the hands-down win-

ners of the Fonthill high school's version of the Oscar for best picture.

In their case, make that a photo finish. Their victory over Eden for the gold medal in the senior men's double at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association championships - by only 0.37 seconds - was the closest finish in the year's history, according to the school's website.

Speaking of drama, their medal at Schoolboys was the 100th gold Crossley has won in its history competing at

nationals.

Cyclone crews won eight other golds, two silvers and two bronze at Schoolboys this year to dominate the team event. They also finished first overall in men's and women's points.

Crossley's athletic success wasn't limited to the water. Brock Deba won the silver medal in the junior boys' 100m butterfly at Ontario high school track and field championships, and 50 different students, members of the junior boys basketball, won Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association

championships.

Following are the athletic awards presented at Crossley's year-end assembly:

### SCHOOL AWARDS

**Athlete of the year, senior male:** Braedan Rush.

**Athlete of the year, senior female:** Hailey Purbs.

**Athlete of the year, junior male:** Dylan Biggar.

**Athlete of the year, junior female:** Jessie Fennell.

**Promising athlete, male:** Tyler Dobbie.

**Promising athlete, female:** Katie Knafla.

**Cyclone Athletics Award:** Ben Kalchman, Neemah Williams.

**Athletic Accomplishment Award:** Jared Naar,

Braedan Rush, high school rowing triple crown.

**Outstanding contribution to athletics:** Brock Glenney, Mackenzie Glenney.

### Community Athlete

**Award:** Liam Sodtka, captain; Trent Glenney, alternate captain; Garrett Jackson, members of the 2015-16 Ontario Minor Hockey Association Bantam champion Pelham Panthers.

Bfranke@postmedia.com

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## Pelham NIAGARA Gateway Public Art

The Town of Pelham invites a Call for Public Artists for its second year of public art installations. This outdoor installation is to be installed near the south-side entrance of the historic town hall building, in the East Fonthill Head-Lake Library, to act as a gateway to the Town.

For qualifications visit [pelham.ca/callforartists](http://pelham.ca/callforartists). Applications close June 16, 2016. For more information contact the Town Clerk or email [townclerk@pelham.ca](mailto:townclerk@pelham.ca).

Through a review and evaluation process by a Town-appointed Public Art Selection Panel, three artists will be selected to present in the second stage of the process.

Please review the proposal designs before [townclerk@pelham.ca](mailto:townclerk@pelham.ca) to brief sessions to help the Public Art Selection Panel make a recommendation to Town Council.

Take the survey online until June 17<sup>th</sup> at [pelham.ca/public-art](http://pelham.ca/public-art)

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## A Heritage Tea Party

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# Pelham given ideas to becoming more friendly to seniors

**WAYNE CAMPBELL**

Special to Postmedia Network

Seniors are encouraging Pelham town council to move quickly toward becoming an age-friendly town.

Judy Reid, a member of the Niagara Age-Friendly Community Network as well as the Pelham seniors advisory committee, has a list of recommendations for Pelham council when she addressed decision-makers last Monday night.

The age-friendly group is touring Niagara municipalities promoting policies

to make communities more receptive to seniors in a "new age" of social and economic development driven by senior boomers.

Byboomer households, aged 50 to 69, co-chair Dominic Ventresca said, are spending 66 per cent more

on goods and services than

younger millennials, 15 to 34.

He described Pelham council as very progressive on seniors issues, including to having one of the first seniors advisory committees.

Reid stepped in to bring home a general message about the increasing growth

of the Niagara seniors population. It's by both aging of Niagara residents and by a migration of seniors from other areas.

She said Pelham specific issues include a central place to meet and gather, a one-stop source for community information, a better transit service, both in town and between municipalities, walkable communities with sidewalks connecting neighbourhoods, rationalized scooter use in the town, a reaching out to rural communities, and more intergenerational involvement.

In the health area, Pelham needs doctors clinics, better access to long-term care homes and preventive health programs.

In particular, Reid said,

town council could immediately raise awareness of age-friendly community principles among management and staff.

It could "Invest in easy-to-achieve items for all ages," she said.

Those would include larger fonts on road signs, more curb cuts, not only for wheelchairs and walkers but also baby buggies and roller bladers, and walking paths with park

benches.

Town council could assign a senator to champion age-friendly-community measures.

Reid suggested using the seniors advisory committee to regularly provide an "age-

friendly lens for your municipality and community."

The Pelham seniors advisory committee has held three annual summits since its founding. The most recent had developers talking to seniors about affordable housing,

## Dr. Kimberly Dobson



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# IN BRIEF

## Door-to-door sales ban backed in Pelham

Pelham will join Township of Wellington in asking the province for legislation to ban door-to-door sales of home services. Those services include for such items as HVAC equipment, water heaters, water filtration systems

and home energy products. Pelham recently dealt with salespeople posing as town employees to test water quality in a water treatment sales scam.

### Couple calls for 24-hour noise bylaw

Shane and Langohr, quoting Pelham's "profound slogan, urged councilors to get 'caring and creative' about the town's noise bylaw."

They want a 24-hour version to control loud music flowing through hedges and over fences any time of day.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley said he has had many calls about such noise from radios and stereos. He urged staff "to take a hard look" at what could be proposed.

### Subdivision plan gets two-year extension

Town council last Monday agreed to a two-year extension to its 2018 for a Fenwick subdivision in Pelham.

It will allow new owners time to fulfill conditions set following an Ontario Municipal Board hearing three years ago.

Oak Haven Estates, off Maple Street between Memorial Drive and Ker Crescent, is to contain 28 single-detached lots, street townhouses, a public road, stormwater management pond, and 36 block townhouse units.

Ryan Guetter of Weston Consulting said his client, owners who bought the land last year, need more time to complete engineering and other work.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley suggested an amendment limiting the extension to two years "and no more." Developers, he said, because they have already worked with red tape, yet it's developers asking for extensions.

Council defeated the amendment after Guetter said the owner has every intention of completing the work by 2018. Engineering studies are well underway, as are talks with an objector.

Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak said there were many questions tied to the proposal. They include elevation of land, quality of soil dumped on it and potential effects on water running into creeks flowing north.

The town's planning department supported the extension request.

### Hydro One short-circuits local raters

Pelham council supported a resolution from Township of East Gwillimbury asking the provincial government to end an inequity for

municipalities served by Hydro One.

While locally owned hydro companies re-invest dividends in their communities, Hydro One funds go for use anywhere in the province.

Mayor Dave Augstyn said Pelham faces the situation.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Allcocks said Hydro One should also look at adjusting its local rates.

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Ward 2 Coun. Gary Allcocks said Hydro One should also look at adjusting its local rates.

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## Risky sales put retailers in tough spot

**ANDREA TINGEY**  
Postmedia Network

An employee at a Pen Centre store lost their job last weekend for selling more than \$1,100 worth of cosmetics to a person with autism.

But for a salesperson faced with a possibly developmentally disabled customer looking to make a large purchase, there is no safe, clear option, says a St. Catharines lawyer.

Refusing to make the sale can be just as risky as making it.

The manager would have to decide whether or not to sell the product to the customer," said Mike Vanoostveen, of Sullivan Mahoney in St. Catharines.

"There is no sort of hard and fast rule you could apply to these situations. Particularly with autistic people, there is a wide spectrum."

Refusing to sell the product can be just as bad, "that's where you can get into trouble with discrimination."

After a Facebook post

regarding the sale by Adore Cosmetics of more than \$1,100 in merchandise to an autistic man named Thomas went viral last weekend, many people accused the store of taking advantage of him.

The store and the mall both later apologized, a refund was issued and Adore, through its headquarters in Miami, Fla., announced the employee who made the sale had been terminated.

Tuesday, Thomas's mother, who did not want to be identified to protect her son, revealed he had actually spent \$2,500 in cosmetics over the course of three separate purchases made at Adore during the day.

She learned that after reviewing his credit card statement.

"We don't want people to be discriminated against when they want to make a purchase," she said, "but in this case it seems kind of excessive."

The store, Adore Cosmetics, is independently owned and operated.

"You don't want to take advantage of people."

He added in this instance, the customer was probably not making a decision in his own right. "Their whole business model, stores like that, is trying and making the sale and sell as much as possible," said Vanoostveen.

"They're sort of setting themselves up to be in these bad situations. It's not like the guy just wandered into the store by accident, he was compelled or drawn in by their sales pitch, which is its own moral dilemma."

When Tom's parents initially tried to contact the store, they said they were denied a refund.

Vanoostveen said a store cannot deny a refund without reason.

"The store can't just say we're not refunding this under any circumstances," he said, noting it may be against the Consumer Protection Act.

"They can't make a blanket denial like that."

*Continued on next page*



# Case of customer with autism shows difficult choices they face

From previous page

Autism Ontario Niagara volunteer co-ordinator Jordan Shaw said situations should be handled on a case-by-case basis.

However, she said she believes families can do things to prevent their vulnerable loved ones.

"If the child is at a place on the spectrum where they are able to go shopping on their own, it's important for the family to sit down and chat with them about it," she said.

"There are risks associated with it. We don't want anyone else to get bamboozled, for lack of a better word." Thomas' mother agreed education is key.

"We certainly have to work on education, but I think it's a good idea."

"We've also spoken to the autism society, and my husband is going to be at a meeting there (Tuesday) night, and we're going to encourage them to have some workshops about this kind of financial education."



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17

# LOCAL NEWS

## Details emerge of Uber regulations

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

The Niagara police services board's new regulations to deal with ride-hailing giant Uber and the taxi industry are starting to take shape.

The board's licensing committee received a confidential report from its solicitor and is moving toward enacting a new by-law at its next full meeting June 23.

"We could change this down the road," said board chair Bob Gale. "We are moving forward, but there are a lot of different opinions on this within the board itself."

"To say we are having a debate is an understatement. There is a lot of back and forth, and we are leaving the option open to change things down the way." What now we can't know, everybody has asked.

"We have had letters from politicians all over the region about this. MPP Tim Hudak sent a letter. Everybody is adding their two bits. We have also



BEVERLY HERZOG

The Niagara police services board is working on the regulations that deal with taxis and ride-hailing services.

received some letters that were late, but I don't want to go into that right now."

Uber has been operating illegally in Niagara since November, and 20 Uber drivers were charged with offences under the Highway Traffic Act back in April.

The police board released some of the details of the draft by-law after its committee meetings last Thursday.

Uber is referred to as a transportation network company — TNC for short — throughout the proposed regulations.

The new rules will be con-

tigent on all TNC drivers and vehicles having their insurance plan approved by the province, Gale said.

The province is in the process of reviewing Uber's liability policies. That analysis is expected early in July.

Among Niagara's new regulations are the following:

TNC drivers would have to undergo background checks and vehicle safety requirements identical to those applied to taxi drivers and taxicabs.

The would be no quotas on TNC drivers or vehicles.

There would be minimum fare restrictions of \$3.75 per trip for TNC-arranged rides.

TNC drivers would be required to have identification as a TNC vehicle, and the vehicles would be subject to extensive record maintenance and production requirements.

The licensing fees charged to TNCs would include a flat fee, and a per trip charge, all with a view of making the administration and enforcement of the provisions operate on a cost-recovery basis.

In addition, there are some changes which the licensing committee has recommended for the existing taxi industry.

They include the maintenance of taxi cab quotas, with the provision that the issue of quotas is to be reviewed in one year.

Taxi licences, although granted on a per area municipality basis, may be able to be used regionwide.

The goal of the police board remains to have the by-law ready by July 1.

Hanif Patni, CEO of Convergent Connected Solutions, the main player in the Niagara taxi industry, said he appreciated the time and effort the police board has given to carefully review and assess its bylaws.

"It is clear that the Region is addressing issues related to safety and insurance and ensuring adequate consumer protection and preventing nuisances," Patni said. "We hope the board carefully monitors service levels of all transportation companies and provides adequate enforcement where appropriate."

Efforts to reach an Uber spokesperson were unsuccessful by deadline.

The board has said the overriding objective of the new regulations in Niagara will be to promote public safety and consumer protection by ensuring drivers and vehicles in both industries are safe and adequately insured.

Niagara's police board is responsible for by-laws that regulate business operators and drivers of various vehicles-for-hire, such as cabs, tow trucks, limousines, sightseeing and shuttle vehicles, as well as horse-drawn buggies.

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GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

## **Mental health workers partner with police**

From Page 5

Const. Dan Dupuis is a seven-year veteran and had already taken crisis intervention training before the program started. He jumped at the chance to participate when the staff sergeant was looking for volunteers.

"It's just like riding with anybody else, you have to get along," Dupuis said. "They have hired good people. The officer has the final call on whether someone needs to be apprehended for their safety or the safety of the community — but I'm completely open minded about it. We work together to make the decision."

"If it is appropriate, we can find another option that will work out better for them."

"The chief says it is working, and the officers on the street are finding it a valuable asset," he said. "If it is working, that's great. The police board always has to weigh the cost of any program we

Mayor Walter Sendzik went out of his way to praise the teams.

Their efforts fit in perfectly with his Compassionate City initiative to make St. Catherine a kinder, safer place.

\*Pairing an officer with a mental health worker creates a learning environment.

ronment where they can better interact with vulnerable people," he said. "Everyone benefits. The city benefits. The Niagara Regional Police benefit. The people benefit. "At the centre of it is the person who is in a challenging situation. That's the focus, and that is part of the Compassion Project."

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# LOCALNEWS



JULIE JOSCAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Lourdes Hernandez and her daughter Julissa Hernandez-Waite are photographed at the launch of the McMaster Children's Hospital Pediatric Complex Care Clinic at Niagara Children's Centre in St. Catharines.

## A Niagara clinic for kids with complex health needs

**DON FRASER**  
Postmedia Network

Julissa Hernandez-Waite had a challenging early life. It was one that required a clinical team — and her family — to go the distance.

Julissa, 4, was born at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton with organs formed outside her abdominal wall.

There, she spent eight months as doctors dealt with procedures that included a tracheotomy, ventilator and a feeding tube.

Eventually, she made it back home to her loving St. Catharines family.

Periodic checkups and procedures in Hamilton required arduous family trips — loaded with medical and family gear.

At first they were able to use a bus to get to the site. When direct transit service

ended about two years ago, they had to use a taxi for the visits. It cost almost \$200 per trip.

"At the beginning, it was at least twice a month," Julissa's mother Lourdes Hernandez said in an interview. "When we were busing it, it wasn't that bad, but when we had to taxi, it was very expensive."

Late last year, the family got some welcome relief from the difficult, pricey trips.

This, after McMaster Children's Hospital and Niagara Children's Centre joined forces to create new local clinic for Niagara children and their families facing complex medical conditions.

A media event to mark the new clinic was held last Wednesday at the Glenridge Avenue centre.

Continued on next page

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# LOCAL NEWS



Breton Waite, Lourdes Hernandez and their children, Julissa Hernandez-Waite and Elijah Hernandez-Waite attend the launch of the McMaster Children's Hospital Pediatric Complex Care Clinic. Waite and Hernandez accessed the centre for their four-year-old daughter.

## A Niagara clinic for kids with complex health needs

From Page 18

Niagara's Centre provides service to children and youth with physical, developmental and communicative delays, with many of them also patients at McMaster.

The McMaster Children's Hospital's Pediatric Complex Care Clinic provides care for children with multiple health needs, and who may need advanced technology.

To help improve accessibility, last fall, an agreement was hammered out to have the hospital's complex-care team to the centre once a month to see families who'd previously had to make the trip to Hamilton.

"This is less time consuming, there is better access," Hernandez said. "It's just knowing that basically wherever you are in the city, it will take you less than half an hour to get here."

At the media event, Hernandez also spoke with emotion about her daughter's progress.

"We've definitely feel blessed in having the team we had," she told the room.

"And we were able to look after her and to have us taught how to take care of her, too."

"This is a great idea, to help other families in similar situations."

Ten Niagara families are using the new clinic, with that number expected to grow.

"This has been a commitment of very like-minded organizations," said Okanagan Fisher, chief executive officer of the McMaster Children's Centre, who also spoke at the event. "And we really share a common commitment for family-centred care, and quality care for children and families that we serve."

"Here, we can have everybody there, with the family ... (we can do) planning, problem solving and it's all in real time," Fisher said.

"That can only improve care ... and the quality of life for the children and their families."

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